



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carlsbad Caverns  
National Park

3225 National Parks Hwy  
Carlsbad, NM 88220

505 785-2232 phone  
505 785-2133 fax

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## Carlsbad Caverns News Release

For Immediate Release  
Bridget Litten 505.785.3024

### Caverns' New Resources and Science Chief to Promote Program

Gopaul Noojibail has been named chief of Resources Stewardship and Science at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Noojibail, who has been in the park since late November, succeeds Chuck Barat, who was selected as the park's deputy superintendent in late 2003. Although relatively new to the National Park Service, Noojibail brings with him considerable resource management experience.

"We're extremely pleased to have Gopaul on our staff," said Barat. "He's brought with him a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas to the park's resources and science program."

Most recently, Noojibail was the natural resource management specialist at the National Mall and Memorial Parks where he addressed resource issues in the complex urban parks of the Nation's capital. While there, he developed multiple partnerships and worked to elevate the stature of the parks' natural resource management program, developing it into a respected program within the National Capital Region.

From 1998- 2001, Noojibail was a congressional investigator for the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Natural Resource and Environment Division. He worked on teams that provided recommendations to Congress on issues such as implementation of the Endangered Species Act, the environmental effects of urban sprawl and the effects of pesticide exposure on farm workers. In 2000, he testified before the House Resources Committee on the habitat conservation plans for endangered species in California.

"I am excited about working with such a dedicated group of people at the Caverns." Noojibail added, "With their help, I hope to increase the visibility of the park's resource management program to highlight the world- renowned resources we're here to protect."

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Noojibail holds a master's degree in environmental science and applied ecology from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a bachelor's degree from Earlham College where he studied art and biology. He recently completed the Penn State Executive Training Program for Natural Resource Managers funded in part by the NPS Professional Development Scholarship for natural resource managers and staff. He and his wife, Erin, a senior analyst for GAO, live in Carlsbad.

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